

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

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The idler is ever the worst complainer—and usually with reason—for he who works not is apt to find abundant occasion for feeling ill at ease with himself and with the world.—B. C. Forbes.

THE RESULT OF NEPOTISM AND PARTISAN POLITICS.

Continual playing of partisan politics with the city's milk inspection system is dangerous. It has resulted in a bill now before the legislature to put the inspection in the territory's hands.

The argument against such a shift is that it will remove from the city and county a natural and proper function of a well-regulated municipality—its own health and sanitary safeguarding. It will reduce the city's self-governing powers.

The argument in favor of the shift is that the city has failed to handle its milk inspection properly. And that argument is likely to prove stronger than the other, for the protection of public health comes before the observance of any particular form or structure of government.

The last city administration—Democratic—made the milk inspector's job a plum for a political henchman who had to be given attention.

The present city administration—Republican—also erred gravely. Mayor Lane appointed his brother to the position at a comfortable salary. Irrespective of the question whether his brother is or is not a capable inspector, the appointment was unnecessary. By giving the board of agriculture's inspector a city commission and \$20 a month, the mayor could have secured for the city the services of a trained man and one already proved competent. But nepotism and politics were allowed to override public interest and the economical, the efficient way was disregarded.

It is argued now that the milk inspector is not so much to blame as the city physician. The public isn't as vitally interested in the question of what city official is to blame as in the fact that the system is ineffective.

That is why even those who most earnestly advocate full powers for the municipality don't feel called upon now to get up and protest at the idea of the territory taking over the milk inspection.

Unless the city gets down to a more business-like government there will be other legislative bills to remove other powers. The only way to stop this bill is to prove that the city will do better.

TURKISH OUTRAGES UPON CHRISTIANS.

Recent reports of Turkish outrages upon Christians in Assyria and other parts of the Near East have hardly indicated the number of non-combatants who are at the mercy of the ruthless Ottoman. According to Associated Press advices, the horrors of the great war have now brought suffering and exile to more than 50,000 offenseless Christian people in Northwestern Persia, according to a statement given out by a newly organized Persian War Relief Committee. The invasion of Persia and the capture by Turks and Kurds of the cities of Urumiah, Tabriz and other cities which had been held by Russian troops, drove the Assyrian and Armenian people, in fear of massacre, either out of the country or into Russia or into the American missionary compounds in Urumiah and Tabriz. The flight from Urumiah began at midnight on January 2, the people having only a few moments' notice of the approach of the Kurds and the need of flight.

For over 75 years American Christians have carried on missionary work among these people in Northwestern Persia and for the last generation Anglican missionaries from England and Roman Catholic missionaries from France have worked among them. The disaster which has now fallen upon the people falls upon them all indiscriminately and includes many Moslems that have been subjected to the same hardships and loss as their Christian neighbors. Relief funds will be distributed wherever there is greatest need without regard to sect or nationality.

The American missionaries of Northwestern Persia are all at their posts and have filled their compounds and buildings with refugees. A relief committee has been organized in Tabriz under the American consul and W. S. Vanneman, M. D. Rev. Robert M. Labarre of Tabriz has gone to Tiflis to work with a local committee of leading native Christians. Relief in Tiflis will be supervised by this committee, Mr. Labarre and the American consul.

THE BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The department of agriculture announces that in 1914 there was produced in this country 722,054 tons of refined beet sugar, and it is a matter of common knowledge that, owing to war conditions and the fact that sugar does not go on the free list until next spring, the acreage for 1915 will probably be larger than ever before.

And there it will stop. There is no beet sugar factory in this state which expects to run next year, and all which have made any statement on the subject say that they will not run because they cannot.

It is presumably the same in all other states, and it is certainly the case with the cane growers of Louisiana, whose sugar costs more than beet sugar.

But that will not help the consumer in the least. While with all forms of sugar as they are now the beet sugar factories cannot run without protection, with the million tons of domestic sugar withdrawn, the refiners will be able to get the same old prices and pocket the profits. For years the refiners' trust, which has been characterized by the department of justice as having practiced "a long-continued system of defrauding the government of unparalleled depravity," has been striving to put the beet sugar producers out of business.

At last, by the aid of the president and congress, it has done the trick, and not only has it not profited the consumer by one cent, but when the war exigency came, these same refiners would sell only at the most extortionate prices, and are endeavoring to do so still.

That which this most villainous trust has done before it will certainly do whenever it is possible.

The one possibility of preventing extortion was in the beet sugar industry.

And that, the refining trust, in collaboration with a theoretic president and a Democratic Congress, has removed.—San Francisco Chronicle.

It is extremely unlikely that President Yuan Shih-Kai has "yielded to the demands of Japan in full," as a special cablegram to the Chinese Liberty News of this city declares. Yuan is slowly giving in on the less important of the demands; apparently he is fighting for time on the others. It is incredible that he has suddenly weakened on the entire list, for that would mean his acquiescence in the passing of Chinese sovereignty into the hands of the statesmen at Tokio.

Great Britain acknowledges violating Cilean neutrality by the sinking of the Dresden in a neutral harbor. On the same day this acknowledgment of error is made public, comes the news that a Dutch steamer at anchor was torpedoed by a German submarine. Honors appear about even.

Delegate Kuhio's logic is somewhat difficult to understand when he dwells on the need of more military safeguards in Hawaii and in the next breath is against the one move most likely to mean real protection in case of trouble.

"Public hearing on legislative bill for milk inspection." "Chamber of Commerce discusses water measures." Evidently some of the pending legislation is of the milk-and-water variety.

"Population of France Shows Heavy Decrease," says a headline. The population of several other European countries doubtless show the same phenomenon.

Philadelphia has put to scorn all those who say it is slow by deciding to send the Liberty Bell to the Exposition, only two months after the Exposition opened.

Some folks seem to think the acme of preparedness consists in writing a tract about the millennium of peace.

It appears that Representative Kupihea is anxious to have Judge Ashford investigated.

That submarine war seems to be particularly effective against neutrals.

Russia's mighty rush down into Hungary has petered out again.

LETTERS

(The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received to which no signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space for anonymous communications.)

BOOZE MUST GO.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir: I heard a person say the other day, "If Hawaii was to try another vote on prohibition in the near future it would surely go through."

I believe that man was right. There has been no world change in hundreds of years that has grown so fast as this flying wedge of prohibition. The movement has been started; at the right moment it was considered a good thing and pushed along. There is a great something abroad in the land whose chief aim is to reach and teach and win the American people. This does not mean that this something is to be satisfied with winning a few hundreds or even thousands here and there, but the millions who labor with their hands and are in every sense the backbone upon which will depend the coming progress and hope of this nation.

This task of winning them over will be accomplished as sure as the sun is going to rise tomorrow. It has commenced already, and from every quarter of the land of the free there has been a decided stand made for the total elimination of liquor, backed up by the highest authority in the state, or if it has not actually come to pass yet, there are rumblings that foretell of its near approach. There is no fancy, no dreaming, no exaggeration about it all. The liquor men of the whole country have been brought to a realization of the fact that they have a fight on their hands, a terrific fight, a fight that they are going to lose. They have been backed off the boards to a finish so far. They are at a standstill. A standpat is a war who has stopped and cannot get started again, while a progressive is one who has started, and cannot stop, and in this respect the prohibition movement is a progressive of the deepest dye. It would seem that it is the psychological moment to drive the alcohol trade, bottle and barrel, from the confines of the United States.

It is most encouraging to note the local manifestations of prohibition inclinations that are daily making their appearance throughout the city, and with each day they are getting bolder and larger. The "treating" proposition is receiving much attention. People do not read these signs and pass on, but in nine cases out of ten they read them the second and third time. They think it all over and in many there is sown the seed that grows to an idea that there is a moral necessity, especially so right here in the territory of Hawaii, of destroying the liquor traffic.

The argument that prohibition is an infringement on personal liberty and that each person has a right to determine for himself what he shall drink has no valid excuse for living and is kept alive by the interests that traffic in liquor. There is not a country in the civilized world that does not exercise some kind of authority over the making and selling of liquor. It is thereby under control, or under the right of control. Once this right to restrict liquor in any of its phases is made manifest and the "personal liberty" argument goes fluey.

Traffic in, and the use of, liquor are two very different propositions. If the obtaining of liquor is made difficult by the act of government, that is the user's misfortune. Why should the government put itself in a way to hold out the intoxicating glass to the man who has not the will power or the manhood to resist, but give a helping hand toward dragging him lower?

How about the saloon? That is the clearing house for the whole rotten business. There can be no traffic in liquor without the saloon. It is admitted from one end of the land to the other that the saloon is an evil that is sapping the very life of the country. This is even admitted by those who fatten the saloonkeeper's purse. And this same saloonkeeper would do all in his power to prevent the locating of a saloon next to his fine home that he has built from the earnings of those who frequently starve and abuse their families. He would consider it an evil of the worst kind. Is it any less an evil when located at some other point or near some other man's home, or a school or a church? If it is an evil because of its proximity to any of these will somebody kindly tell me of the distance that will make this evil a blessing? The saloon in Hawaii is admittedly bad for the laboring class as well as all other classes; society should not tolerate it; the number of them in the community should be lessened, or better still, banished altogether.

There are those who may contend that prohibition does not prohibit. That is up to those who make the laws. Of course there will be violations of the law just as there are vio-

Personal Mention

AH HEE YOUNG, a student in the sixth grade at the Waiuku, Maui, public school, stood highest in her class with an average of 99 in a recent examination, says the Maui News. The girl is Chinese.

A. HUNTER, Frank Holan and two others of the "bunch" that left Honolulu by the Glenery have joined the Third Battalion, London Scottish. They are hard at work training for the front, at the corps headquarters at Buckingham Gate, London, S. W.

S. S. HURVEY, assistant United States attorney at Topeka, Kan., writes that he intends to visit Hawaii as an extension to his exposition excursion in July. Acting Secretary Taylor of the Promotion Committee has sent him literature of the islands.

E. J. SILVA, deputy sheriff of Hama, Awa, accompanied by his eldest son, was an arrival in the Claudine from the Valley Island yesterday and expects to remain two weeks in Honolulu. Deputy Sheriff Silva is a brother of Capt. Evangelina da Silva, a member of the Hilo delegation in the house of representatives.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—ED TOWSE: When it comes to advertising what is the matter with informing state governors throughout America that Hawaii is the first to initiate steps which will probably lead to military education of the nation?

—TOM MERLE: That show at the Popular, the wild animal film, topped off with that funny little company of marionettes, is some show, believe me. The full house last night clearly shows that there are some people in Honolulu that prefer the film to grand opera. Every kiddie in the town ought to see that show.

—J. WEST: Devotees of grand opera should feel perfectly content over the amount taxed them for seats during the present local grand opera season. On April 21, Caruso will sail from Genoa for Buenos Ayres to fill an engagement of ten nights, for which he will receive \$70,000. That's \$7000 a night. Those who might complain of the high cost of opera here may console themselves with the reflection that they do not live in Argentine Republic.

lations of all laws but that also is up to the law officers.

Do I hear somebody ask, how about the loss of revenue that the government will have to stand? True, it is a vast amount of money that is poured into the coffers of the government from the tax on intoxicating liquors. Stop a second and think. It is not the liquor dealers who pay this enormous tax. It is the victims of the drink habit that pay it, and they pay it out of the hard-earned wages that should have been taken to the home to buy clothes and shoes for the little ones. The slave to the drink habit not only pays the big tax to the government, but he also pays a tax larger still, that goes to build the mansions of the dealer in the most desirable localities of the city. A citizen freed from the curse of drunkenness can bear any burden of taxation necessary to support the government.

How about the manufacture of liquor? And in this respect, run it right back to the farmer who disposes of his grain for the purpose of liquor manufacture. There is no vested right in the manufacture and sale of liquor and anybody engaged in such business is with full knowledge that it is subject to control and restraint.

The liquor business has no defense or excuse for existence. It adds nothing to the productivity of this territory, and each day withdraws sums of money that might be invested in other useful channels. It will be a happy day for Hawaii when the liquor traffic gets beyond the "effectively regulated" period and is entirely abolished.

INDIANA'S EXAMPLE.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir: The Indiana legislature is certainly going to the top in hanging up laws that are aimed to help along mankind, or more properly speaking, womankind. That body of lawmakers has not, so far, touched on divorce and its results, but it has made marriage in that state an institution that involves a venture, by enacting what is known as the "lazy husband law." Under this new law every husband must go to work and support his wife and family if he has any. As soon as a gay bachelor leaves that state of blessedness and annexes one of the

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fair daughters of that state he is a fine example is followed generally in open for investigation, and if he at a question. Coming legislatures can tempt to shirk, and live on the bounty of wives who were so well fixed with this world's goods that they never expected their lords and masters to do any work, he can be set to work by the state.

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